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AP24 Ed

(NEW YORK)--THE ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS TODAY ON AN EXHAUSTIVE SEVENMONTH STUDY OF THE PUBLIC CRITICISMS AIMED AT THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

A-P ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER KEITH FULLER EXPLAINS:

"WE WANTED TO DETERMINE JUST WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THE WARREN REPORT AND RIGHT WITH ITS CRITICS."

THE A-P CONCLUSION:

"A LOT IS RIGHT ABOUT THE WARREN REPORT, AND A LOT IS WRONG ABOUT ITS CRITICS."

THE WARREN REPORT CONCLUDED THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD WAS THE KILLER, AND THAT THERE WAS NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT ANYONE ELSE HAD BEEN INVOLVED. SINCE THEN, DOUBTS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY A NUMBER OF CRITICS OF THE REPORT. MOST PROMINENT HAVE BEEN EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN IN HIS BOOK, "INQUEST;" MARK LANE, AUTHOR OF "RUSH TO JUDGMENT;" HAROLD WEISBERG, AUTHOR OF "WHITENASH;" AND DISTRICT-ATTORNEY JAMES GARRISON OF NEW ORLEANS PARISH--OR COUNTY--IN LOUISIANA, WHOSE PROBE OF THE ASSASSINATION CONTINUES.

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AND DISTRICT-ATTORNEY JAMES HARRISON OF LOUISIANA

PRIZE--IN COUNTY--IN LOUISIANA, WHOSE PRIZE OF THE ASSASSINATION CONTINUES.

TO WEIGH THE CRITICISMS, POINT BY POINT, THE A-P ASSIGNED TWO HIGHLY-EXPERIENCED WRITERS, SUE MOODY AND BERNARD CANTER.

MOODY SPENT THREE MONTHS JUST STUDYING THE WARREN REPORT AND 66 SUPPORTING VOLUMES OF TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS. THESE TOTAL ALMOST 10,000 PAGES. THEY WEIGH 54 POUNDS. MOODY ALSO CHECKED THE CRITICS' BOOKS AGAINST THE WARREN REPORT.

CANTER SPENT DAYS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON STUDYING FILES OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK PAPERS. HE TALKED WITH HARRISON AS WELL AS WITH OTHER KEY FIGURES IN CALIFORNIA, CHICAGO, DALLAS, PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINGTON. HE TALKED WITH ELEVEN OF THE 15 SENIOR COMMISSION COUNSEL--THE ATTORNEYS WHO PERFORMED THE DAY-IN, DAY-OUT DETAILED WORK ON THE INVESTIGATION. THE OTHER FOUR REFUSED TO BE INTERVIEWED.

THE A-P WRITERS, IN A 30,000-WORD REPORT, GO INTO DETAILS ABOUT ALL THE DOUBTS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED: DOUBTS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF SHOTS FIRED; WHERE THE SHOTS CAME FROM; WHETHER THE FIRST BULLET WOUNDED BOTH KENNEDY AND GOVERNOR JOHN CONNALLY OF TEXAS; THE SHAPES ITSELF AND WHETHER ONE WAS "POUL" HAVE RISEN IN THE MARCH TO FIRST MARCH, THEN WILL, THE PRESIDENT WITHIN A SPACE OF FIVE AND SIX-TENTH SECONDS; WHETHER THE

AUTOPSY WAS THOROUGH. ALL THESE POINTS, AND OTHERS, WERE INVESTIGATED, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER, AS CARRISON CLAIMED, THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY.

THE A-F WRITERS NOTE THAT THE COMMISSION DID NOT SAY CARRISON ALONE WAS THE ASSASSIN. IT DID SAY IT FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT CARRISON WAS INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY. ALSO, THE COMMISSION AND F-B-I INVESTIGATED SEVERAL OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE FIGURED IN CARRISON'S STORY.

AN INDICTMENT AGAINST CLAY SHAW, A NEW ORLEANS BUSINESSMAN, SAYS HE CONSPIRED TO ASSASSINATE KENNEDY. IT DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY THAT THIS WAS THE ASSASSINATION THAT TOOK PLACE. CARRISON HAS SAID HE DOESN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN "SEMANTICS."

WHILE THE AUTHORS DO NOT GO INTO MUCH DETAIL ABOUT THE SHAW CASE--WHICH IS STILL BEFORE THE COURTS--THEY NOTE THAT THE CHIEF WITNESS AGAINST SHAW IS A MAN WHO FIRST CONTACTED CARRISON TWO DAYS AFTER THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAID THE CASE WAS SOLVED. THE WITNESS TESTIFIED AFTER BEING GIVEN SO-CALLED "WHISKY STEAKS AND UNENDING HYPNOSIS. ANOTHER WITNESS REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS OFFERED A BRIBE BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO GIVE FAVORABLE TESTIMONY.

THE A-F WRITERS SAY THE WARREN COMMISSION MADE A MISTAKE IN NOT MAKING X-RAYS AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AUTOPSY PART OF THE RECORD. MOST PEOPLE THEY INTERVIEWED FEEL THE SAME WAY. THERE ARE TWO VERSIONS AS TO WHO MADE THE DECISION TO KEEP THESE SECRETS: CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN OR SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY, THEN ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

AS FOR ALL THE DOUBTS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED. THE A-F WRITERS AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN THEIR 10,000-WORD REPORT--WALK THROUGH THEM:

"THE CRITICS HAVE PRODUCED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF NEW EVIDENCE. THEY TAKE THE COMMISSION EVIDENCE AND REACH DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS."

"THE CRITICS ARE NOT JUDGES. THEY ARE PROSECUTORS, MAKING A CASE. WHERE FACT WAS SERVED, THEY HAVE USED IT. WHERE IT WAS NOT, THEY HAVE NOT."

"THE COMMISSION PRESENTED ALL THE EVIDENCE IT COULD FIND. THE CRITICS DID NOT."

AND FINALLY:

"ONE MAY INTERPRET WHAT THE COMMISSION FOUND; AND THE CRITICS HAVE, ABUNDANTLY. BUT WHILE, AS OF THIS DATE, THERE MAY BE DOUBTERS, DOUBTS AND SPECULATION, THE CRITICS HAVE YET TO PRODUCE THAT ONE ESSENTIAL OF PROOF---EVIDENCE."

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AS FOR ALL THE DOUBTS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED. THE AP WRITERS AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER IN THEIR 20,000-WORD REPORT--MAKE THESE COMMENTS:

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